



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

April 25, 2014

Gary Torres
Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Farmington District Office
6251 College Blvd., Suite A
Farmington, New Mexico 87402

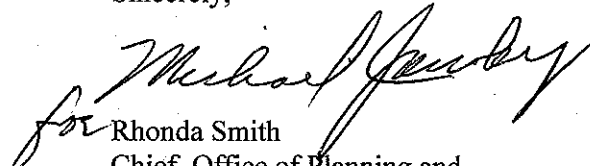
Dear Mr. Torres:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the proposed San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project. Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Inc. filed a preliminary application for a right-of-way grant with BLM for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a new 230 kilovolt overhead electric transmission line, access roads, two new substations, and expansion of an existing substation. The proposed 65-mile transmission line would run from near Shiprock, New Mexico to Ignacio, Colorado and would be primarily located adjacent to existing transmission line rights-of way. The project would deliver electricity generated at existing facilities and improve the reliability of the transmission system to meet the increasing demand in the San Juan Basin.

EPA has rated the DEIS as **LO "Lack of Objections"**. The EPA's Rating System Criteria can be found here: <http://www.epa.gov/oecaerth/nepa/comments/ratings.html>.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the DEIS. Our classification will be published on the EPA website, <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/eisdata.html>, according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the CAA to inform the public of our views on the proposed Federal action. Please send our office one copy of the Final EIS (FEIS). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 214-665-8006 or Michael Jansky of my staff at jansky.michael@epa.gov or 214-665-7451 for assistance.

Sincerely,


for Rhonda Smith
Chief, Office of Planning and
Coordination